

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-2 and 5-9 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A handover method for a radio communications system having first, second and further transceiver units, comprising:

signaling a mobile station and the second transceiver unit from the radio communications system to indicate that a handover is to occur, ~~the second transceiver unit being a neighboring transceiver unit to the first transceiver unit;~~

sending a handover signaling message from the mobile station to the second transceiver unit in order to set up a connection to the second transceiver unit, the handover signaling message being sent via a channel that carries signaling messages for requesting a radio link, the handover signaling message containing a code_word differentiating the handover signaling message from signaling messages for requesting a radio link;

checking the code word at the second transceiver unit and at one of the further transceiver units to determine whether a handover signaling message or a signaling message for requesting a radio link has been received;

identifying the received signaling message at the one of the further transceiver stations as a handover signaling message on the basis of the code word, ~~the one of the further transceiver units not having received the signaling from the radio communications system indicating that the handover is to occur;~~

ignoring, on the basis of the identification of the received message by the one of the further transceiver units, the handover signaling message; and

proceeding with the handover at the second transceiver unit based on the code word and the signaling from the radio communications system..

2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the handover code is stored in each of the transmitting/receivingtransceiver units,
the value of the code word received with a signaling message is compared with the handover code stored in each of the further transmitting/receivingtransceiver units,

if the value of the code word matches the handover code, the signaling message is identified as a handover signaling message.

3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the handover code comprises a number of values,
the value of a code word received with a signaling message is compared to the values of
the handover code, and

if the value of the code word matches one of the values of the handover code, the
signaling message is identified as a handover signaling message.

4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein
the handover code comprises a number of values,
the value of a code word received with a signaling message is compared to the values of
the handover code, and

if the value of the code word matches one of the values of the handover code, the
signaling message is identified as a handover signaling message.

5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein
the mobile station receives from the radio communications system a command to initiate
the handover procedure, which command contains information about the second
~~transmitting/receiving~~transceiver unit and identifies the handover procedure,

the radio communications system transmits information about the handover procedure to
the second ~~transmitting/receiving~~transceiver unit, and

further ~~transmitting/receiving~~transceiver units which receive the handover signaling
message from the mobile station check whether the code word contained therein has a value
matching the handover code and, if the value matches the handover code, the further
~~transmitting/receiving~~transceiver units reject the handover signaling message.

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein
the mobile station receives from the radio communications system a command to initiate
the handover procedure, which command contains information about the second
~~transmitting/receiving~~transceiver unit and identifies the handover procedure,

the radio communications system transmits information about the handover procedure to
the second ~~transmitting/receiving~~transceiver unit, and

further ~~transmitting/receiving~~transceiver units which receive the handover signaling message from the mobile station check whether the code word contained therein has a value matching the handover code and, if the value matches the handover code, the further ~~transmitting/receiving~~transceiver units reject the handover signaling message.

7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the ~~transmitting/receiving~~transceiver units is a base station.

8. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least one of the ~~transmitting/receiving~~transceiver units is a base station.

9. (currently amended) A handover method for a radio communications system having first, second and further transceiver units, comprising:

signaling a mobile station and the second transceiver unit from ~~a~~the radio communications system to indicate that a handover is to occur;

sending a handover signaling message from the mobile station to the second transceiver unit in order to set up a connection to the second transceiver unit, the handover signaling message being sent via a channel, which also carries signaling messages for requesting a radio link, the handover signaling message containing a code word differentiating the handover signaling message from signaling messages for requesting a radio link;

checking the code word at one of the further transceiver units to determine whether a handover signaling message or a signaling message for requesting a radio link has been received;

identifying the signaling message at the one of the further transceiver stations as a handover signaling message on the basis of the code word; and

proceeding with the handover at the second transceiver unit based on the code word and signaling from the radio communications system.